

Present: Dwight Baker; Andy Bennett; Hans Brandal; John Coney; Ray Day, Jr.; Dave Elliott; John Jensen; Sandy Paul-Lyle; Holly Plackett; Anirudh Sahni; Carla Sautler; Joan Sells, Vice-Chair; Tina Shereen; Mike Taylor, Chair

Staff: Marnie McGrath, Community Relations Planner; Kevin Desmond, General Manager; Raj Cheriell, Research and Management Information project manager; Ellen Bevington, Speed and Reliability project manager; Sharron Shinbo, Marketing and Development project manager; Cheryl Carlson, Prosecuting Attorney's office

Guest: Alissa Reeves Engnell; Sam Downing, Council Member Ferguson's office

Vice-Chair Joan Sells opened the meeting at 6:05 p.m. Mike Taylor took over chairing the meeting when he arrived at 6:20 p.m.

Fare Policy Discussion

Kevin Desmond provided an introduction to the topic and introduced project manager, Raj Cheriell. Cheriell gave an overview of fare policy and distributed a matrix describing five main goals for Metro's fares: 1) Maximize ridership; 2) minimize cost to consumers who are least able to pay; 3) reflect the cost of services in a consistent ratio; 4) keep the fare structure as simple as possible; and 5) use fares to promote operational efficiency.

Cheriell and Desmond fielded questions from TAC members, addressing the rationale for peak fare surcharge, special discounted fares, and fare zones. Members asked Cheriell for a breakdown of regular versus discounted fares. Cheriell did not have that data with him but agreed to provide it for TAC. Taylor urged TAC members to email any additional questions to McGrath so they can be forwarded to the appropriate staff for response.

Desmond offered to come back before TAC when a fare proposal is before the King County Council.

Speed and Reliability Report

Ellen Bevington from Metro Transit Speed and Reliability presented an overview of the Speed and Reliability program which includes a baseline program, the developing rapid ride corridors, and from 10-20 spot improvement projects per year. Bevington explained that spot improvement projects originate from scheduling and service planning staff, and from operators. TAC members asked how staff prioritizes the spot improvements. Bevington answered that they do as many as possible year, and that all suggestions for spot improvements are recorded so they might be implemented in the future if they can be combined with another project.

Ray Day, Jr. requested that two locations be considered for spot improvements:

- Lander at the U.S. Post Office building between 4th and 5th Avenue – sequence of signal needs adjusting

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- 4th Avenue South at Spokane – left turn is tough

Response to RTC Request for advice on Metro Transit Advertising Policy

Taylor reminded members that the RTC asked for TAC feedback about the Metro Transit Advertising Policy.

TAC members agreed that advertising on Metro Transit buses is protected by the first amendment and that based on Metro Transit's current advertising policies there is no basis to deny the posting of the BODIES exhibit advertisement on Metro buses. Taylor suggested the TAC put their response in the form of a letter. McGrath offered to draft the letter and email it to members for review so that it can be adopted at the next meeting.

Eastside Transit Sounding Board Report

Holly Plackett and Dwight Baker reported that the Eastside Service Change package is expected to go before the King County Council Transportation Committee in early May.

Other

Taylor introduced Sam Downing, aide to Council Member Bob Ferguson. Downing explained he didn't have any particular questions or concerns, and was in attendance only as an observer. He added that one issue they've been hearing a lot about lately is Metro security.

Committee Business

- Carla Saulter volunteered to attend the RTC meeting on April 18th.

Adjournment

Taylor adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.